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Chairperson: Mr. Alaei (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Islamic Republic of Iran)
later: Ms. Gittens-Joseph (Chairperson) ..... (Trinidad and Tobago)

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In the absence of Ms. Gittens-Joseph (Trinidad and Tobago), Mr. Alaei (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/55/119, A/55/156, A/55/162-S/2000/715, A/55/257-S/2000/766, A/C.3/55/L.3, L.4 and L.5)

Agenda item 106: International drug control (*continued*) (A/55/68-S/2000/377, A/55/126, A/55/133-S/2000/682, A/55/257-S/2000/766, A/55/260-S/2000/108, A/55/326-S/2000/834, A/55/375).

1. **Ms. Zoghbia** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that illicit trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs were the worst crimes that could be committed against society. The international community must therefore join forces to eradicate them. Her delegation had participated actively in the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, and it reiterated its commitment to the Political Declaration (resolution S-20/2) adopted on that occasion. It was also a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and in March 1999 had received a delegation from the International Narcotics Control Board. Lastly, it was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/C.3/55/L.10).

2. Libya did not produce drugs, but because of its geographical location it served as a transit point to other parts of the world. It had therefore taken all necessary legal, administrative and security measures to protect its people from that scourge. It had adopted a national policy based on the criminalization of drug trafficking and drug addiction. Very harsh penalties were imposed on drug traffickers, ranging from life imprisonment to capital punishment, because drug trafficking was considered premeditated attempted homicide against innocent people. Moreover, in cooperation with various non-governmental organizations, information campaigns targeting young people had been launched in the media. Her Government fully supported international action to reduce drug demand through rehabilitation and social integration programmes for drug addicts and preventive measures. In that respect, she emphasized the important role of the media and education in raising awareness of the harm caused by drugs and the threat which they posed to the physical and mental health of young people. Her country was cooperating with the Mediterranean and Arab countries, as well as the African countries, in combating illicit drug trafficking and had concluded regional cooperation agreements to address that international threat. It also supported intensified international cooperation to reduce demand and eradicate illicit crops through alternative development and strict control of chemical precursors. She stressed that such cooperation must be in keeping with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, above all, full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. The rapid exchange of information was also important for combating and investigating drug-related crimes, especially money-laundering. Other measures included passing laws in that area, confiscating all illicit and unlawful property and complying strictly with international instruments and United Nations resolutions.

3. **Mr. Gharti** (Nepal) said that the problems of organized crime and drug abuse and trafficking posed a serious threat to modern society and were linked with other kinds of crimes, such as international terrorism, which went beyond the confines of national jurisdictions. The international community must therefore make concerted and determined efforts to check them.

4. His delegation fully respected the commitments made in the Vienna Declaration, adopted at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to the reduction of criminality, more efficient and effective law enforcement and administration of justice, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity and professional conduct. It welcomed the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three draft protocols on combating illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, trafficking in women and children and illegal trafficking in migrants and hoped that work on the protocols would be completed at the Ad Hoc Committee's eleventh session. It also welcomed the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations to elaborate an international instrument against corruption, in view of the increase in corruption brought about by a number

of factors, including the negative social and economic consequences of globalization.

5. With regard to international drug control, his delegation fully endorsed the Political Declaration of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in which Member States had expressed their deep concern about links between illicit drug production, trafficking and involvement of terrorist groups, criminals and transnational organized crime, their resolve to strengthen their cooperation in stemming illegal arms trafficking and their commitment to reducing demand within a decade. His delegation expressed its appreciation to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) for providing training and technical cooperation to judicial, prosecutorial and law-enforcement personnel of Member States and encouraged it to further intensify its legal and technical assistance programme.

6. Nepal was not a drug-producing, nor a major drug-consuming, country. However, because of its close proximity to the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle, the source of a considerable part of the world's heroin supply, it had not remained immune to drug-related problems. Although the number of drug abusers in Nepal was low, continuous trafficking in drugs could seriously damage the country's social fabric. As a party to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, it was determined to combat that problem. It had formulated a national drug control policy and a national demand reduction strategy and had enacted a Narcotic Drug Control Act in consonance with the 1961 and 1988 United Nations Conventions. It had also strengthened its judicial and legal system to better cope with the problems of drug abuse and trafficking and had encouraged non-governmental organizations to raise public awareness and treat and rehabilitate victims of drug abuse.

7. In order to reduce demand, it was necessary to provide employment opportunities to young people, educate them about the adverse impact of drugs and create conditions at home and at school where young people could grow without distraction. Addicts should also receive assistance through treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes. To control supply, economically rewarding crop substitution programmes and alternative employment opportunities must be offered to poor farmers and stringent measures must be taken to bring manufacturers, suppliers and traffickers to justice and mete out adequate punishment. In an effort to deal with a problem that knew no borders, Nepal had also been working with other members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which in 1990 had adopted the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, bringing about a spirit of cooperation and coordination in controlling drug abuse, trafficking and production in South Asia. In the concluding year of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, 1991-2000, his delegation urged all Member States to promote mutual cooperation in combating the devastating situation created by drug abuse and drug trafficking.

8. **Mr. Nuanthasing** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, despite significant progress since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on countering the world drug problem, drugs continued to pose a major threat to every society the world over. His own country had been seriously affected by both drug production and drug consumption. The persistence of opium production was revealed by the fact that highlanders did not have either opportunities to give up their traditional methods of cultivation or alternative crops to grow. Hunger and poverty were still a serious problem in the opium production areas and the workforce was still very weak, owing to the fact that many men were addicts. In view of that, his delegation believed that opium cultivation, which was closely related to the vicious circle of rural poverty, could be eradicated by programmes to ensure food security, enhance opportunities for income generation and develop the physical and social infrastructure. In that regard, the successful implementation of various projects under those programmes had indicated that the local people wanted to participate in development that offered alternatives to opium, improved access to sanitation and health care and reduced dependence on opium as a painkiller.

9. As for the problem of drug demand, 50 per cent of the opium harvested in the country was for local use and there was also significant consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants. In 1996 and 1998 two clandestine amphetamine refineries on the border of Bo Kheo province had been destroyed. Laos was, however, still being used as a transit country by traffickers of amphetamine-type stimulants and local people, particularly teenagers, had been seriously affected by the use of such drugs. Community-based

drug control had proved to be the most successful way of dealing with the problem. Addicts and their families prepared together and cared for each other during detoxification and rehabilitation, with the help of district and provincial detoxification centres. In order to address the drug problem effectively, the Government and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme had signed a historic agreement in 1999 to end opium cultivation and demand in Laos by 2006. Counter-narcotic units, with checkpoints, operating in 17 provinces and one special zone of the country, would be strengthened and upgraded in order for them to meet the new challenges. New development programmes would also be initiated in the opium cultivation areas of 10 northern provinces in the country. Demand for amphetamine-type stimulants had increased rapidly in rural areas, so a demand reduction strategy was urgently needed, to include prevention, treatment, detoxification and rehabilitation. Treatment centres would be expanded in parallel with support systems and institutions.

10. Drug problems worldwide could be countered only by the joint efforts of the world community. The Lao Government had the firm political will and the mechanisms to cooperate with the Programme and other bodies with a view to meeting the target set by the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on countering the world drug problem.

11. **Mr. Kouliev** (Azerbaijan), speaking also on behalf of Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the Republic of Moldova, said that the problem of illicit drug trafficking, which was closely linked with organized crime and corruption, posed a threat to democracy and economic development in the entire international community. Only a strong political will, allied with international and regional cooperation, could overcome a problem that grew ever more serious. At the twentieth special session of the United Nations, achievements in the field of countering drug trafficking activities had been analysed and a comprehensive framework for strengthening international cooperation and elaborating national drug control plans had been established. In the Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2), Member States had pledged to redouble their efforts to deal with the world drug problem. Some positive results had been achieved at both national and international level. The Governments of Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova had elaborated national strategies for reducing drug supplies and consumption. Their national criminal codes were being improved with a view to providing harsher penalties for drug-related crimes. Despite such efforts, many acute problems remained. A substantial proportion of illegally circulated narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were being imported into their States. The route through Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe was widely used by drug dealers, who took advantage of continuing conflicts in some regions. Conflict zones provided beneficial climates for cultivating and shipping drugs, since they were beyond the reach both of national and international control systems and of the rule of law. The volume of illicit drug trafficking in Central Asia was a matter for concern. Transnational criminal groups were constantly trying to open up operational channels for the transfer of narcotic drugs through the region.

12. Another factor aggravating the problem in the region was the difficult situation of the economies in transition, together with related problems of a social and economic nature, which meant that they needed more active support and collective effort from the international community in dealing with drug trafficking. It should, however, be stressed that any action taken should be in full conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. The international community should make greater efforts to counter drug-trafficking activities, terrorism and organized crime in the region. In that connection, a particular welcome should be extended to a high level international conference on enhancing security and stability in Central Asia, taking an integrated approach to countering drugs, organized crime and terrorism, to be held in Tashkent in October 2000 and organized by the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Government of Uzbekistan.

13. In combating illicit drug trafficking it was necessary to tackle both supply and demand, as well as organized crime, money laundering, corruption and terrorism. To that end, support should be given to activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme aimed at elaborating and implementing innovative strategies, broadening the base of the relevant international legislation and

assisting in alternative crop cultivation. The programmes of assistance to Governments in implementing international treaties on drug control should be maintained, as should the inter-agency programmes implemented jointly with other bodies of the United Nations system for reducing drug consumption, since they were effective and timely. It was welcome news that the Programme had joined forces with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, for the application of the latter in the States of the region would represent a significant contribution on the part of the international community to the work on demand reduction and the associated problem of the spread of HIV. It was also necessary to enhance the initiative by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to establish a global youth network aimed at facilitating professional training for young people and finding effective methods to prevent drug abuse among them. All such programmes required close cooperation between the Programme and its national and international partners, as well as with international financial institutions. He expressed gratitude to the Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and donor States for their assistance in the fight against illicit drug trafficking, in the hope that the assistance would continue so that cooperation with all international organizations and interested States could be maintained.

14. **Mr. Fadaifard** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that drug abuse and related crimes remained a threat to all societies and the international community as a whole. The transnational nature of criminal organizations in the drugs field meant that no one country could overcome the problem on its own. It was therefore necessary to strengthen and increase cooperation among all States still further, in order to deal collectively with the threat by taking action against money laundering, terrorism, arms trafficking and corruption. His delegation considered that the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme should prepare a balanced and coordinated strategy. He commended the work that had been carried out, despite limited resources.

15. One of the main problems in the international war against drugs was that, despite the aim of eliminating illicit cultivation, expressed at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General's report (A/55/126) and the Programme statistics indicated that such cultivation continued in certain parts of the world, and particularly in Afghanistan, which contained a large number of laboratories producing heroin and morphine, thus becoming one of the world's main heroin producers. Afghanistan was the biggest producer of illegal opium in the world, accounting for 75 per cent of world production in 1999. It was therefore clearly crucial to eliminate all cultivation in Afghanistan in order to curb the devastating effects, in every area of life, not only on the people of Iran and other countries in South-East Asia but also on the entire international community. The resolution of the drug cultivation problem in Afghanistan required the adoption of a balanced and multifaceted approach. International and regional cooperation was a vital factor in establishing a security zone around Afghanistan and putting an end to the drug traffic from South-East Asia. To that end, the international community should take concerted action to prevent a further increase in Afghanistan's drug production and promote development programmes.

16. The fight against drug trafficking along Iran's borders was essentially a war in that military operations had to be undertaken against caravans and smugglers armed with modern weapons. According to Iran's central drug control authorities, in 1999 Iranian forces had carried out 1,445 operations, in which 253 tons of narcotics, including 6 tons of heroin and 22.7 tons of morphine, had been seized. According to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), Iran had seized more heroin, morphine and opium than any other country; in the case of morphine and opium, the quantities seized exceeded the amounts seized by all other countries taken together. For opiates alone, Iran had seized some 49 tons of heroin in 1999, as compared with a total of seven tons seized by all the Western European countries combined. In the first half of 2000, the Iranian authorities had seized 2,838 kilograms of heroin, 9,455 kilograms of morphine, 90,673 kilograms of opium, 13,044 kilograms of hashish and 466 kilograms of other drugs, making a total of 116,476 kilograms. During the same period, 61 drug control officers had died in armed clashes with traffickers. The number of members of the Iranian security forces killed in operations against smugglers had totalled 193 in 1999 and 2,895 for the period 1979 to 1999. That was the price which Iran had to pay for its determination to combat illicit drugs and the indirect costs were impossible to quantify, but it would not flinch from that difficult task.

17. The illicit drug problem in Afghanistan had forced his Government to promote major initiatives in that regard. Such efforts were insufficient to eliminate the drug problem in Iran or the flow of drugs from Afghanistan, however, and the full support and cooperation of all the countries of the region and the assistance of the international community were needed. He was gratified that, in September, the "six plus two" informal group had adopted a regional plan of action to combat the drug trade in Afghanistan, strengthen criminal justice systems and build the capacities of law enforcement services in neighbouring countries, promote cooperation among police forces in the region, improve cooperation in eliminating illicit crops, promote alternative crops in Afghanistan and improve efforts to reduce demand. UNDCP assistance was needed in ensuring that the international community supported the implementation of the regional action plan. As a member of the "six plus two" group, Iran fully supported the efforts being made by UNDCP and the group's coordinator to that end.

18. It was regrettable that, as a decade devoted to international efforts to combat illicit narcotic drugs drew to a close, the use of such drugs for non-medical purposes was increasing and they were even being advertised on the Internet and in other communication media, principally in Europe. That was incompatible with the spirit of all the international treaties on drug control, in particular article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and article 10 (2) of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The obvious impact of widespread drug abuse, as well as drug trafficking, on youth was also cause for concern. The major consumer countries for illicit drugs must live up to their international responsibilities and obligations and try to reduce demand in their countries in order to tackle the drug problem and the associated problems of illicit production, trafficking and consumption.

19. **Mr. Issa** (Lebanon) said that the Executive Director of UNDCP had visited Lebanon in late 1999, at which time he had observed that, well ahead of the targets set for 2003 and 2008, the drug crops which had proliferated between 1975 and 1999 while hostilities were going on had been eliminated in some parts of the country. In accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 42/4, the drug control department of the Ministry of the Interior had provided the Commission with the relevant data and answers.

20. Illicit crops had now been virtually eliminated in Lebanon. Greater assistance was nevertheless needed in helping farmers replace such crops, which were their only livelihood, or engage in other types of activities. The assistance provided by UNDCP was not enough. Countries must provide greater assistance with alternative crops, particularly in the country's mountainous areas, where dykes and dams must be built in order to create an irrigation system.

21. A better understanding of the reasons for the cultivation and consumption of illegal substances would contribute to eliminating the problem, and his Government was determined to tackle the problem in keeping with the outcomes of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. In accordance with paragraph 18 of the Political Declaration adopted at the special session (resolution S-20/2, annex), Member States must adopt a comprehensive approach, in line with the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development. His Government, being aware of the environmental consequences of the drug problem, had established cooperation mechanisms between the Ministries of Agriculture, the Interior and Health.

22. His Government had adopted a series of legislative measures to combat drug use. Rather than viewing addicts from a criminal justice standpoint, those measures offered them opportunities for rehabilitation, provided that they or those responsible for them requested such services.

23. With regard to substances imported for medical purposes, the competent authorities were the Ministries of the Interior and Health and no longer, as had previously been the case, the Ministries of the Economy and Trade. Rigorous procedures had been established for the importation of substances for medical purposes, as well as for precursors, in order to prevent abuse.

24. Lebanon had a market economy in which private enterprise predominated. Its legislation therefore provided for banking secrecy, which offered a guarantee that information on economic activities and financial situation of the various actors in the market would not be revealed, so as to avoid any attempt at unfair competition. However, an exception had been made with regard to the laundering of the proceeds of

drug trafficking, and the Ministry of Finance, financial bodies and the banking association had agreed on a series of measures to prevent money-laundering. There was, in effect, no money-laundering in Lebanon, because the banking system made it impossible. Lebanon's activities to combat drug trafficking and drug use, as well as drug-related money-laundering, were being carried out in cooperation with UNDCP.

25. Drugs were a scourge which threatened the very foundations of society and placed human lives, particularly young lives, at risk. They also threatened the social, economic, scientific and cultural development of all societies. Accordingly, his country stood ready to join with all those concerned in the struggle to eliminate that scourge.

26. *Ms. Gittens-Joseph (Trinidad and Tobago), Chairperson, took the Chair.*

27. **Mr. de Moura** (Brazil) said that the international community was facing what might be called the globalization of crime, an unfortunate by-product of the growth of markets and the unprecedented increase in international trade and communications. In such a world, transnational criminal activities had gained a new dimension which required an active response from all countries. His delegation welcomed the completion of the United Nations Convention against Organized Crime and looked forward to completion of its three protocols in the coming weeks. His Government's actions in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice had drawn on the studies and documents emanating from the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and from the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It attached importance to the strengthening of international technical assistance in the struggle against criminal activities at both the national and the international levels. At the regional level, Brazil had been actively involved in the discussions on those issues in various forums, such as the first meeting of Heads of State and Government of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1999, during which participants had included among their priorities for action cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime and related criminal activities, the elaboration of instruments against corruption, active promotion of the implementation of the international conventions on the matter and increased collaboration between their Governments.

28. At the national level, a draft bill was being examined by the National Congress which would ban the sale of all firearms and ammunition throughout the country, except to the armed forces, public security agencies and private security firms. A similar bill had already been put into effect in the state of Rio de Janeiro, and other states were carrying out disarmament campaigns. Legislation signed in July 1999 had enforced the federal programme of assistance to victims and threatened witnesses, as well as to their relatives, companions and children.

29. The demand for and production of illicit drugs remained a problem of global magnitude, despite the efforts made at all levels to eliminate it. Illicit drug trafficking was the main source of revenue for international criminal organizations, posed a threat to the dignity of human beings and had an enormous social cost. His delegation welcomed the growing international consensus on the guidelines and principles that should guide international cooperation in tackling the world drug problem. The only way to devise effective strategies in that area was for all nations to accept the principle of shared responsibility and to take a balanced and comprehensive approach to all drug-related problems. International cooperation required a multidimensional strategy that took into account the aspects of prevention, rehabilitation and the fight against related criminal activities. Brazil had been taking an active part in the international debate on that issue and had launched and supported several initiatives to strengthen cooperation in the fight against illicit drugs in the context of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and within the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries. Within the framework of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), in addition to the regular meetings and consultations between justice ministers and the various agencies involved in fighting crime, Brazil had taken part in a meeting held in December 1998 to discuss the drug problem. In the final declaration of the meeting of South American Presidents, held in Brasilia on 31 August and 1 September 2000, the 12 Heads of State had highlighted the important role of the Organization of American States in the fight against drugs in the Western hemisphere and had agreed on a series of actions to strengthen cooperation with regard to intelligence, police operations and control of related criminal activities, including money-laundering and illegal arms trafficking.

30. At the national level, the Brazilian Government and Congress had continued to update legislation in order to deal effectively with the drugs scourge in all its complexity, adapting domestic legal instruments where necessary to reflect the international commitments made by Brazil.

31. **Mr. Mra** (Myanmar) said that drugs were a major socio-economic problem of the age. His delegation fully supported the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), in paragraph 9 of which it had been resolved to redouble efforts to implement the commitment of Member States to counter the world drug problem and to intensify efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking, as well as smuggling in human beings and money-laundering.

32. Myanmar had inherited cultivation of the poppy plant from the colonial administration. Since independence, successive Governments had made relentless efforts to eradicate the drug problem, which had been given top priority. Since the recent restoration of peace and stability to virtually every part of the country, Myanmar was in a better position to undertake anti-narcotics activities in areas where it had previously been impossible to do so for security reasons. The root causes of the problem lay in ignorance, lack of development and poverty. His Government's strategy was therefore to enhance law enforcement and to promote poverty alleviation and the all-round development of the regions concerned.

33. In poppy-growing regions, socio-economic development activities were being carried out with the assistance of non-governmental organizations from China and Japan. In the main poppy-growing region, Wa, buckwheat was being grown as a substitute crop and the Government hoped to declare the region a drug-free zone by 2005. Such efforts had led to a sizeable drop in poppy cultivation and opium production and the Government had begun to implement a plan for the elimination of narcotic drugs by 2015, with a budget of US$ 150 million. For a developing country like Myanmar, to tackle such a global menace alone was a tall order, and the plan's implementation would be accelerated if national efforts were supported and supplemented by international assistance and cooperation.

34. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) had provided US$ 15.5 million for a project to reduce illicit poppy cultivation using a sustainable approach with local community participation, so as to reduce and eventually eliminate the opium-based economy in the northern Wa and Kokang areas. Alternative development could eliminate economic dependence on the poppy in the remote areas, but shortfalls in resources might handicap UNDCP in its work.

35. His delegation was encouraged by the successful conclusion of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice, which had been submitted to the General Assembly for adoption, emphasized the commitment to act on all forms of crime, including transnational crime, which, owing to technological advances and greater mobility of people and resources across national borders, had become increasingly pervasive, diversified and organized. Myanmar was constantly vigilant against all kinds of transnational crime and had taken measures to counter them, as witnessed by the recent meeting in Yangon of senior officials of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) responsible for combating transnational crime.

36. **Mr. Tekin** (Turkey) said that, because of its geographical location, his country served as a bridge between East and West, making it vulnerable to the transit of drugs through its territory. It's law-enforcement agencies were doing their utmost to fight a scourge that threatened young people and international peace and security. Among other things, the export of precursors and acetic anhydride should be brought under strict control, as stipulated in the relevant international instruments and documents.

37. For years Turkey had been struggling against drug trafficking, using its available resources, and it has learned that that activity was one of the largest sources of illegal earnings used to create a strong financial basis for illegal arms trafficking by terrorist organizations. In recent years, it had achieved impressive results in the eradication of illicit drug trafficking through the introduction of new legislation and operational structures to combat drug-related organized crime and money-laundering. Economic globalization had made money-laundering increasingly difficult to detect and punish, demonstrating the importance of international cooperation in making domestic measures more effective in combating transnational crime. In that regard, Turkey was a party to all the United Nations conventions on the

production, consumption and trading of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and had also concluded bilateral agreements with 46 countries on cooperation against drug trafficking, terrorism and organized crime.

38. Turkey and UNDCP had recently initiated a project for the creation of the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime in Ankara, with the Government providing the premises. The Government hoped that UNDCP and donor countries would match the Turkish contribution in order to ensure the effective functioning of the Academy.

39. Turkey had always advocated better coordinated international cooperation in crime prevention and the prosecution of criminals, including an effective system of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fields of law enforcement and legal assistance in criminal matters. The adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the timely completion of its protocols would be a significant step in that direction, provided that they covered all its manifestations, including terrorism. Turkey had advocated the inclusion in the Convention of a clear reference to the relationship between terrorism and organized crime. However, it had not been possible to establish that obvious linkage in the Convention, and States parties would have to implement it with the clear understanding that anyone who committed a crime covered by the Convention should not be immune from justice and that terrorists should not be able to escape justice by claiming political motives.

40. **Mr. Al-Suwaidi** (Bahrain) said that, although people were aware of the harm and the adverse effects of narcotics use, illicit trafficking and addiction were on the increase, encouraged by international criminal groups who made huge profits from them. One of the social consequences of drug abuse was the need to devote large sums of money to tackling the problem and its consequences, instead of investing them in the development of society and human resources.

41. His Government had devoted enormous efforts and all its energy to combating the problem in order to prevent it from spreading. At the national level, modern electronic equipment was used to detect drug trafficking, at all borders whether land, sea or air; training workshops were held on how to detect smugglers; a special unit had been set up in the psychiatric hospital to treat addicts; and, as prevention was better than cure, secondary school students were taught about the dangers of drug addiction and public information campaigns were broadcast on radio and television for the benefit of most sectors of society. Moreover, the Criminal Code had been amended to include the death penalty and life imprisonment for traffickers; people who had recently amassed fortunes overnight were being investigated to find out where the money had come from and there had also been a crackdown on money-laundering.

42. At the regional level, Bahrain coordinated its activities with countries members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and also with the Arab countries through the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior of the League of Arab States. At the international level, it was a party to all the international drug control conventions.

43. All those efforts at the national, regional and international levels had helped Bahrain to contain the problem, to the point where it was no longer cause for concern in the country. However, the drug problem was not limited to any one country or society, it was a global problem and the efforts of the international community were needed to eradicate it. The international community could help curb it by providing financial assistance to drug-producing countries so that they could grow alternative crops and by helping to strengthen national economies and to reintegrate former addicts into society by offering them job opportunities that would allow them to participate in their countries' development process.

44. **Mr. Emmanuel** (Haiti) said that no country could tackle the problem of drug trafficking single-handedly, since directly or indirectly it affected and threatened everyone. Joint action was therefore needed to combat it. Haiti needed bilateral, regional and international cooperation in order to make up for its agent's lack of experience and training, its lack of detection and surveillance equipment, its weak institutions and its lack of resources. The drug scourge was a common, shared responsibility which must be tackled within a multilateral framework. His delegation therefore endorsed the appeal made by the European Union to the Member States to strengthen the basic functions of the specialized agencies in that regard.

45. His Government was aware of its limitations and the obstacles it faced and had, therefore, concluded an

agreement with UNDCP setting up a working group to design a coordination mechanism and draft a plan of action. The President of Haiti had also concluded an agreement with the United States of America whereby agents of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) could enter Haitian territory, with the necessary authorization, to interdict vessels suspected of carrying drugs. At the subregional level, Haiti continued to work within the framework of the 1996 Barbados Plan of Action, for closer cooperation and more effective coordination.

46. In May 2000, his Government had launched an experimental drug demand reduction programme elaborated in cooperation with UNDCP. The programme involved conducting a study among 5,000 school children and street children on the extent of drug addiction, and training social workers to treat addicted street children. In that regard, two bills on the control and suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, and on the laundering of money from drug trafficking and other serious offences were to be submitted to Parliament.

47. His Government was concerned at the negative consequences of organized crime, violence, terrorism and abuse of power. Believing that a common, coordinated response was needed, it welcomed the adoption by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice, which was a really important measure in the fight against transnational organized crime. Crime had been on the rise in Haiti for some time, forcing the Government to allocate to the operation of the relevant structures resources which might otherwise have gone to development. Only through an effective, trustworthy, fair and ethical penal system could public safety and crime prevention be assured. For that reason and in order to fulfil the commitment made at the Tenth Congress, his Government would vigorously combat impunity, which was the major obstacle to crime prevention.

48. In that context, he wished to mention that high-ranking members of Haiti's national police had been tried for murder and that many of them had been convicted, regardless of seniority or rank. The suspects implicated in the massacre of thousands of people at Raboteau on 22 April 1994, at the height of the coup d'état, by soldiers and members of the Front révolutionnaire pour l'avancement et le progres d'Haïti (FRAPH) were also on trial. It was, however, regrettable that some leaders and masterminds of the massacre had not been brought to justice and it was deplorable that the archives of the former army and FRAPH, confiscated in September 1994 by United States soldiers, had never been returned to the Haitian justice system. The Raboteau trial highlighted the need for those documents to be returned in full, in the interests of justice and crime prevention.

49. **Mr. Belinga-Eboutou** (Republic of Cameroon) said that drug trafficking had serious socio-economic consequences for the family, public health and society; encouraged transnational organized crime; threatened the peace, security and stability of States; weakened political institutions and jeopardized societies' prosperity and future. It was a complex problem, and close, ongoing international cooperation was needed to solve it, particularly in Africa.

50. The work of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had reaffirmed and highlighted the negative role of illicit earnings from drug trafficking which, among other things, reinforced the diverse trends in crime in the main regions of the world, namely, corruption, organized crime, money-laundering and trafficking in human beings, especially women, children and immigrants.

51. Globalization had enormously facilitated the uncontrolled circulation of small arms, as well as transnational crime, and his Government welcomed the negotiation of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols. It also welcomed the initiative of the United Nations Offshore Forum to obtain the commitment of the international community to the drafting of universally recognized norms to combat money-laundering and to provide courts with the technical assistance needed to apply those norms.

52. His Government believed that prevention was better than cure and it emphasized prevention in its strategy for combating drug trafficking and crime. In fulfilment of its international obligations, it was systematically adapting its legislation to enable it to tackle the problems of illicit drug trafficking, arms trafficking and money-laundering effectively. However, in order to achieve its objectives in that area, it would have to combine its efforts with regional and

international cooperation. At the regional and subregional levels, it was continuing to contribute actively to the strengthening of cooperation, in both the economic sphere and in the maintenance of peace, stability and security. One example was its active participation in the work of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa; in that regard, it expressed its gratitude for the United Nations contribution to that structure.

53. His delegation welcomed the establishment of a new drug control coordinating office in Southern Africa and the strengthening of the existing offices in West and North Africa. It looked forward to the forthcoming establishment of an African Firearms Centre within the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Furthermore, in order to prevent the spread in Central Africa of the problems under consideration, it believed that UNDCP should look into the possibility of establishing an office, which his country would be willing to coordinate and intensify activities in that sphere.

54. **Ms. Kassim** (Brunei Darussalam) said that her country had become increasingly aware of the danger of drug misuse in small, traditional societies where human resources development and social stability were vital for the future. Reports from other countries about the effects of drug abuse on physical and mental health, especially among young people and even children, and its association with criminal activities were extremely disturbing and had alerted the authorities of Brunei Darussalam to the need for vigilance, care, education and cooperation with its neighbours.

55. Globalization and, in particular, modern communication technology had given the problem a new and more worrying dimension. While globalization opened up many opportunities, it also facilitated drug trafficking. The existence of transit points was obviously a matter of considerable concern to her Government, which was pleased that efforts were being made at the regional and international levels to tackle the issue, as no single country could handle it alone.

56. Her country had also intensified its national efforts, with governmental and non-governmental organizations working together on anti-drug activities. At the same time, it was offering whatever help it could regionally and internationally and would continue to play a full and responsible part in the worldwide cooperation that was required to control the problem.

57. **Mr. Reddy** (India) said that the international community needed to translate into action the commitments made by Member States at the Millennium Summit concerning the world drug problem and transnational crime. In that regard, the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had been a significant initiative. The Declaration adopted by the Congress urged Member States to take effective, resolute and speedy measures to prevent and combat criminal activities carried out for the purpose of furthering terrorism and to do their utmost to foster universal adherence to the international instruments against terrorism. His delegation hoped that, once adopted by the General Assembly, the Declaration would serve as a guide for international cooperation against transnational crime and terrorism.

58. Developing countries needed assistance in building their capacity to prevent and combat transnational organized crime. In that connection, he noted that the Centre for International Crime Prevention had undertaken projects for technical cooperation in seven countries and was carrying out satisfactory work; however, the global programme against trafficking of human beings required more support. The joint ministerial statement of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Seminar on Building Capacities for Fighting Transnational Organized Crime, held in Bangkok in March 2000, signalled the region's political will and determination to combat transnational crime, including by enhancing regional cooperation.

59. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had finalized a draft Convention in less than two years; it expected that the work already under way to elaborate protocols to the Convention would be equally productive. In response to the request contained in General Assembly resolution 54/128, the Ad Hoc Committee had presented its views on the desirability of elaborating an international instrument against corruption. With a view to elaborating that instrument, his delegation urged the broadest intergovernmental consultations to be held, taking into account domestic judicial systems and external linkages, particularly with money-laundering.

60. In the landmark Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (A/RES/S-20/2), Member States had agreed to, inter alia, a timetable of actions with a view to achieving the targets established for 2003 and 2008. They had also welcomed the comprehensive approach adopted by UNDCP to the eradication of illicit crops and committed themselves to working closely with the Programme to develop strategies with a view to eliminating or reducing significantly illicit cultivation of coca, the cannabis plant and the opium poppy by 2008. While most countries were moving steadily towards achieving those important targets, Afghanistan, under the Taliban government, defiantly continued producing 75 per cent of the world drug output. It was not surprising that Afghanistan had been unable to overcome its dependency on narco-revenue, given the natural affinity between drug trafficking and the rogue ideology of war and terror, which had directly contributed to ethnic and sectarian cleansing in that country. The victims of Taliban terror, however, were not exclusively Afghan. Taliban-trained terrorists were also wreaking havoc beyond the borders of Afghanistan. Indeed, the Taliban had become world leaders in the export of drugs and terrorists and it was highly unlikely that the danger posed by their activities would diminish unless their patrons withdrew their ideological and financial support and ceased providing them arms.

61. The proximity of India to the major illicit drug producers exposed it, on the one hand, to the danger of drug abuse, and, on the other, to international narcotic traffic and terrorism. In order to deal with those challenges, India had decided to adopt domestic vigilance measures and promote international cooperation centred on United Nations organizations.

62. According to current estimates there were more than 3 million drug abusers in India, where the trend in drug abuse had moved from opium and cannabis to heroin and, more recently, to synthetic drugs. Those new drugs, and the tendency for drug abuse to begin at an ever-younger age, posed a new challenge for service providers and policy planners. Nearly 45 per cent of India's population was below 19 years of age and, therefore, demand reduction programmes were being directed at that especially vulnerable sector, ensuring access by children and youth, particularly in high-risk groups, to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation schemes.

63. UNDCP and India had launched two projects for an initial period of three years. UNDCP was supposed to contribute $5.6 million and India, $15.3 million. While India's financial commitment was assured, with $3.69 million already disbursed, there was some uncertainty regarding the UNDCP commitment. His delegation trusted that that uncertainty would soon be dispelled.

64. **Ms. Kislinger** (Venezuela) supported the statement made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Rio Group and expressed her satisfaction at the completion of work on the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime. At the same time, she highlighted the need to strengthen technical and economic cooperation in order to ensure its implementation. In that connection, she said that a draft law against organized crime had been submitted to the National Assembly of Venezuela for consideration and adoption.

65. Her delegation had taken note of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee with regard to the elaboration of an effective international legal instrument against corruption contained in paragraph 18 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/119) and, in particular, the need for such an instrument to be independent of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. She agreed that the terms of reference and outline of scope of that instrument should be based on a thorough analysis of all relevant international instruments and recommendations. Venezuela reaffirmed its support for the efforts to elaborate such a legal instrument and was prepared to share the experience it had acquired in the negotiations on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

66. Venezuela had centred its national drug strategy not only on control, interdiction and prosecution of drug trafficking but also on prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, investigation, and control of the legitimacy of capital and of marketing of chemical precursors.

67. In the international sphere, she believed that the world drug problem required a global and balanced approach, e.g. concerted action based on the principles of equality, reciprocity, shared responsibility and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, and the establishment of linkages between the political dimension and the economic, social and

cultural and ecological dimensions within the framework of effective cooperation.

68. **Ms. Newell** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the statement by the representative of Uganda on the title of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, said that, despite the 1992 legal opinion, that the words "United Nations" need not be included in the title since they were not contained in the statute adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa, they did appear in the titles of General Assembly resolutions and there was no reason why they could not be included every time. The title of the Institute would therefore be corrected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/156) and would appear that way in all documents in future.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.